



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KIRA et al.

Serial No.: 09/548,313

Filed: April 12, 2000

For: HEAD ASSEMBLY, DISK UNIT, AND BONDING METHOD AND APPARATUS

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Group Art Unit: 2652

Examiner: C. A. Renner

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

Date: February 4, 2002

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated January 14, 2002. In the Action, restriction is required between Group (I), claims 1 - 13 drawn to a head assembly chip; Group (II), claims 14 - 19 drawn to a method of producing a head assembly chip; and Group (III), claims 20 - 27 drawn to an apparatus for producing a head assembly chip.

Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group (I), claims 1 - 13 for prosecution in this application. This election is made without traverse, it being understood that the applicant's right to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter under 35 USC §120 and 35 USC §121 is retained.

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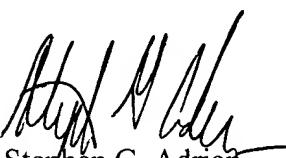
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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



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Atty. Docket No. **000452**

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